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Item 8 of the provisional agenda

REGIONAL MEETINGS

Note by the Secretariat

1. The General Assembly, in paragraph 4 (d) of its resolution 46/116, decided that, in accordance with the objectives and provisions of its resolution 45/115, regional meetings should be convened for each region that so desired within the institutional framework or with the assistance of the regional commissions and that those meetings should be financed as part of the preparatory work for the World Conference, as recommended by the Commission on Human Rights in paragraph 8 of the annex to its resolution 1991/30.

2. Subsequent to the adoption of this resolution, the Secretary-General of the Conference was notified of the desire of three regional groups to hold regional preparatory meetings for the World Conference on Human Rights.

3. The Secretariat has been informed by the groups concerned of their wishes in regard to the date and duration of these meetings. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/243, entitled "Pattern of conferences", in which the General Assembly decided that United Nations bodies may hold sessions away from their established headquarters when a Government issuing an invitation for a session to be held within its territory has agreed to defray,

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after consultation with the Secretary-General as to their nature and possible extent, the actual additional cost directly or indirectly involved, the regional meetings will take place according to the following schedule:

(a) The regional meeting for Asia will take place at the headquarters of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at Bangkok from 12 to 16 October 1992;

(b) The regional meeting for Africa will take place at Tunis from 2 to 6 November 1992;

(c) The regional meeting for Latin America will take place at San José from 30 November to 4 December 1992.

4. As part of the preparatory process for the World Conference on Human Rights, these regional meetings are expected to focus on ways to enhance the implementation of human rights norms at the international, regional and national levels, bearing in mind the human rights aspects considered to be of particular concern to the respective region.

5. The provisional agenda of the regional preparatory meetings would be expected to include issues relating to the protection and promotion of human rights, including the implementation of international and regional human rights instruments. In addition, each regional meeting would consider issues which relate to the objectives of the World Conference from the perspective of that region. One regional group has already finalized the list of issues to be included on its agenda, and similar inputs from the other groups are expected shortly. In addition, and at the request of the concerned regional groups, background papers will be prepared by the Secretary-General of the World Conference.